



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
PO BOX 360
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360
www.state.nj.us/health

CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN
Governor

CHRISTINE GRANT, J.D., M.B.A.
Acting Commissioner

**NEW JERSEY STATE
MICU ADVISORY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 27, 1999
MINUTES**

- Call to Order** - Dr. Nevins The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a. m.
- Approval of the Minutes** - The minutes of the June 14, 1999 meeting were approved as submitted.
- MICU Future Planning:** J. Brennan
- E.D. Regulations: Dr. Brennan stated that the New Jersey DOH&SS was working to place both the ED and CCTU process into regulatory format. These regulations should be forthcoming.
- Research Committee: Dr. Melnick will now head this committee. Any questions should be directed to Dr. Melnick
- Negotiated Rule making: Dr. Brennan reported that the next meeting will be October 4 and 5, 1999 in Baltimore, MD. Decisions regarding the division of the available monies will be placed in the Federal Register after February 2000. He added that there is a significant decrease in the amount of monies that will be available for MICU services. He added that Karen Halupke had reported that the average MICU charge is currently \$820. The amount reimbursed for these services could change to \$350 which encompasses both the ALS as well as the BLS charges.
- Prehospital research**-Dr. Nevins Dr. Nevins reported that the laws in New Jersey are a little more demanding than the federal laws for allowing for research without consent. Currently, there is requests for the Commissioner to waive the existing consent rules, however, Legislative change is required. Dr. Nevins called for recommendations from this Advisory Council to the Commissioner supporting prehospital research. This motion was seconded and approved by the group.
- Medications** - G. McKie. Gilly McKie gave the medication report in Dr. Lahita's absence. She reported that on September 20, 1999 the subcommittee met and discussed the following items:
- Amiodarone - Not yet sponsored by any Medical Director in New Jersey. If there is a need to add this medication, more support is needed.
- Nasal Administration - Nasal medication administration was approved by the group as an additional route of administration. As long as the medication is found on the MICU formulary, then nasal administration is permissible. Rectal gel was given the same consideration. She mentioned that a

plan to instruct the Medics and Nurses on how to administer nasal and rectal gel would need to be implemented by the EMS Educator of the project, if these two medication routes are being utilized.

RSI Training
Program -

The group reviewed the training program for RSI presented by the EMS Educators. Please take time to review the document and make comments concerning this program. A vote will be taken at the next MICU Advisory meeting in December. Please email or mail your comments directly to Paul Yasbin at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.

Bretylium -

Ms. McKie reported that Bretylium is available, but in low supply. Production should be back up to speed by the end of the year.

Standing orders – G. Muench

Mr. Muench reported that the comment period for standing orders has concluded. The new standing orders should be published in the New Jersey Register on November 15, 1999.

CCTU/EMS Council – J. Pruden

A presentation was made to Dr. Pruden for his work and dedication with this Advisory Council.

Dr. Pruden reported that the EMS Council has access to a web site for activities with OEM. Information will be placed on the site for interested parties.

BLS report

He reported that at the last EMS Council meeting, the New Jersey State First Aid Council (NJSFAC) reported that they had a 20-25% drop in overall membership. The DOH&SS reported that there are 20,000+ EMTs. Both agencies must review these numbers and a consensus needs to be made concerning the accuracy of both sets of numbers.

Communication Centers:

Dr. Pruden reported that by October 1, 1999 all dispatch centers would be on the 800mhz-communication network.

EMT Training Fund:

The EMT Training Fund Committee would need to address recruitment and retention for volunteer EMS activities. There was also a discussion on a proposed bridge program for those certified as a First Responder to the EMT-Basic level.

DMAT Team:

Dr. Pruden reported that the DMAT team has been activated 3 times since the beginning of the year.

Paralytics:

Dr. Pruden reported that the final approval for the use of paralytics in the field would need to go to the Commissioner's office for final approval, along with the proposed training program.

Aeromedical report:

Dr. Pruden reported that there is no clear mandate for a statewide trauma report to come from the Trauma Centers. He also reported The New Jersey State Police was about to embark on a purchase program for buying Helicopters. There seems to be more organization between the New Jersey State Police and the DOH&SS. There would be a representative from New Jersey State Police attending the next EMS Council meeting to discuss their statewide emergency management

activities with the group. Mr. Hansson, representing the New Jersey State Police, would assure that someone from his office makes a presentation at the next EMS Council meeting.

CCTU-

The EMS Council has prepared a report outlining the two tiers of the CCTU service. They are:

1. Basic Transportation-requiring the use of EMTs;
2. Advanced Transportation-The sending hospital designates what level of care would be necessary for this level of transportation (RN needed for this level).

He reported that he sent a letter to the Commissioner requesting the DOH&SS begin making rules for CCTU use in New Jersey.

**Legislative - J. Cupples
Committee**

Mr. Cupples reported that the USAR bill was signed was enacted.

Base Station-J. Waxler

Dr. Waxler reported that the base station course was to include a video and a guidebook. She stated that the course would be given every two years and that attendance records would be kept at each hospital. However the renewal process for the MD's is still up for discussion.

She also reported that the monies for this project were being accomplished through the Preventive Block Grant. Approval of this grant is pending.

Dr. Waxler thanked Karen Halupke, OEMS for her work with getting the booklet complete. She added that that book would be specific to New Jersey, and would be provided for all MD's providing medical command.

Bylaws – J. Waxler

Dr. Waxler reported that there were approximately 10 proposed changes in the bylaws. The important issue was voting for each project, with regard to the Medical Directors. After discussion, a motion was made stating that one Physician has one vote per project, this would also include those projects that have multiple sites within the State. The vote was unanimous.

MICU programs - M. Hogan

Mr. Hogan began by announcing the date for the Leading Edge Conference, which will be held on October 26, 1999 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.

HCFA-

There is general concern that there was no clear direction for the special needs of the New Jersey MICU program with regard to the HCFA negotiated rule making changes. He called for overwhelming support for the MICU system.

Mr. Muench added that a plan would need to be drawn up by the MICU programs to address the HCFA issues. He suggested that the group submit a plan to the DOH &SS for further movement.

Mr. Hogan continued by stating that there will be a meeting on October 26, 1999 at McCabe Ambulance in Bayonne at 6pm. This meeting will deal with the financial component of the HCFA negotiated rule making proposal.

Dr. Nevins asked Mr. Hogan to chair a subcommittee concerning this issue. Mr. Sasso from Robert Wood Johnson stated that a subcommittee is already in place and has met, however recently due to the storm a meeting was cancelled.

Helicopter

Response - Dr. Hummel

Dr. Hummel brought statistics to this meeting on the statewide helicopter response.

Dr. Hummel reported that the purchase of a fourth ship was being examined.

He added that the new charge for use of the use of the helicopter has increased from \$535 to \$1337.

Dr. Hummel added that there was some discussion about the use of a ship that is closer to respond to an emergency if needed. He stated that the proximity of a Trauma Center in relation to the incident is used to determine which ship is sent.

Dr. Hummel stated that a report comparing the intubation success rates between the ground paramedics and the air paramedics would be available at the next meeting. Carl Corerre, RN, Clinical Educator from Northstar reported that out of 305 attempts at intubation after paralytics were administered, 9 intubations were unsuccessful. However, each unsuccessful intubation was ventilated and transferred to the hospital.

OEMS Report-R Muench - Communications –

Mr. Muench reported that the committee met on September 8, 1999. He noted that all of the MICU dispatch centers were invited. Guidecards were also discussed at this meeting, and it was decided that the guidecards would need to be reviewed and updated on a yearly basis. Al McNally from MICCOM was charged with this responsibility. He also added that any changes would be added to the OEMS web site for viewing and downloading.

He stated that as of October 1, 1999 800mhz channel available through New Jersey State Police channel. He stated that the dispatch centers could communicate with one another and helicopters as well. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this program for a nominal fee. Please contact Bob Resetar from REMCS to find out more information.

OEMS has received a request for a waiver from one of the MICU projects that they not participate in the medical channel operations. A special meeting was set up to discuss this topic. All of the ALS communication centers, the MICU programs and the project requesting the waiver have been invited. This special meeting will be held on October 14, 1999.

Education-R Dinetz -

The next meeting of the EMT Training Fund will be October 29, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sayreville Emergency Squad, in Sayreville.

Mr. Dinetz also explained that the paramedic exam was cancelled due to the recent storm and was rescheduled for Saturday October 2, 1999. The test will be held at Toms River East High School in Toms River.

The new paramedic curriculum rollouts are scheduled for October 9 and 10, 1999. He reminded everyone that if they hadn't sent in their money to please do so. He added that after the rollout, there would be a meeting to discuss how we will proceed with the new curriculum in New Jersey.

Mr. Dinetz answered a question regarding the recertification requirements for the First Responder-D providers. He stated that currently there is no requirement for recertification.

OEMS (cont.)

Mr. Muench reported that Acting Commissioner of Health, Dr. Henry Spring is leaving his position with the DOH&SS to accept a position in Washington D.C.

EMSC

OEMS has sent out the *Pediatric Assessment Cards* to all the certified EMT-Basics in New Jersey. There are extras that have been made available to the MICU community.

Changes regarding the CEU requirement for pediatric hours have been enacted for the MICP. The MICP will need 8-hours of pediatric education, taken within the recertification period. It was also noted that new paramedics would be required to have PALS certification, upon initial certification. However, this 8-hour continuing education requirement would still need to be completed.

The proposed changes in the EMT-Defibrillation will be published in the New Jersey Register on October 4, 1999.

The regulations for CCTU will be discussed and worked on by Dr. Pruden and OEMS staff.

Doug Boles inquired about a Y2K letter that was sent from Commissioner Grant. Mr. Muench explained that the letter was sent to all the MICU projects. There was a miscommunication from the Commissioner's office and the response is due on September 28, 1999.

New Business – Dr. Nevins:

Dr. Nevins asked Jim Mondoro to send out a copy of the most up to date standing committee's for the MICU Advisory Council. That will be accomplished and sent out before the next meeting.

The New Jersey ACEP conference is to be held on September 28, 1999, at 9:00 a.m. at the New Jersey Hospital Association complex in Princeton.

The next meeting will be on December 13, 1999 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.